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Romania

Duhul Aurulu (The Lust for Gold)

1974. 1.33 format. 90 min.

In Romanian with English subtitles

Directors-Screenwriters: Mircea Verdoiu, Dan Pita / Cinematographer: Iosif Demian / Music: Dorin Liviu Zaharia Principal Cast: Eliza Petrachescu, Ernest Maftei, Liviu Rozorea / Production Company: Film Production Company No. One / Print Source: Romania Film

The Lust for Gold is actually two films in one; two stories by different filmmakers connected by the theme of death and destruction through greed. Although the directors are different, there are many similarities in the two approaches; the bleak yet starkly beautiful images in black-and-white, the haunting musical theme that runs throughout the film, sung by an unaccompanied folk singer, the foreboding quality . . . the mysterious silence that hangs in the air . . . an aura of intense, almost religious worship of gold.

There is little dialogue in either story; mood is conveyed by a gesture, a glance . . . and much is left to the imagination. Characters are sketched-in rather than fully drawn; rather than exploring individual characters, the directors are concerned with the village people as a whole, their lives being completely dominated by the gold mines that surround them.—Anneliese Goldman



Short: Une Vieille Boite (An Old Box)
Paul Driessen (Canada, 1975, 9 min.)
An animated fable of the treasures to be found within a discarded box.